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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 15. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1/(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 15, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The proposed revisions reflect, in particular, relevant decisions of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and of UNCTAD at its eighth

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1)

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session. They will be reviewed by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget at its meeting from 31 August to 8 September 1992.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 15.1, 15.3, 15.5, 15.7, 15.10 to 15.17, 15.19 and 15.20 of A/45/6/Rev.1. Where modifications of a paragraph are extensive, the deleted text appears in square brackets and the added text is underlined.

A. Programme

1. General orientation

Paragraph 15.1 — After the first sentence, add a new sentence as follows:

"The most recent mandate is derived from 'A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment', adopted by UNCTAD at its eighth session, which provides orientations for developing both fresh approaches to long-standing issues and insights for pursuing relevant new lines of work."

Paragraph 15.3 — Replace the first sentence with the following:

"The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990 adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/206. The prime objective of the Programme of Action is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation in the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in these countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained growth and development. The Programme of Action provides an operational framework and identifies areas in which the least developed countries, their development partners and international organizations need to take urgent and concrete actions based on the principles of strengthened partnership and shared responsibility. The Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 45/206 set out mechanisms for their implementation at the national, regional and global levels, and decided, inter alia, that UNCTAD shall continue to serve as the focal point for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its follow-up at the global level, providing support to follow-up at the national and regional levels, and that the Trade and Development Board shall consider during each of its annual spring sessions a review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action."

Renumber the remaining text of paragraph 15.3 as 15.4 and, in the last sentence, insert between "including" and

"human resources development" the following: "designing and implementing stable and growth-oriented macroeconomic framework".

At the end of the same sentence, delete "and management".

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 15.5 At the end of the paragraph, add the following:

"in close cooperation with its member States, other intergovernmental organizations and institutions and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations. In the implementation of the programme, the UNCTAD secretariat will be guided by the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, General Assembly resolution 45/206 endorsing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and setting out the arrangements for its implementation, and the decisions taken by UNCTAD at its eighth session regarding the institutional adaptation, functions and methods of work of the organization."

Paragraph 15.7 In the first sentence, replace "including UNFPA, UNDP, UNDRO and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, with those regional commissions which have regional monitoring responsibilities regarding the least developed countries, and with other international organizations" with "as well as other relevant international and regional organizations and institutions".

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 15.10 The paragraph should read as follows:

"The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 36/194, 40/205, 42/175, 42/177, 43/186, S-18/3, 44/241, 45/206, 46/156 and 46/206, [and] the Final Act of the seventh session of UNCTAD, paragraphs 106-153; the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; the Cartagena Commitment, paragraphs 63, 66, 137, 220 (A), 221, 223; and principle 6 of the Rio Declaration."

Paragraph 15.11 At the end of the paragraph, replace "and serious debt-servicing problems" with "geographical handicaps and serious external sector problems".

Paragraph 15.12 The paragraph should read as follows:

"The objectives of the subprogramme are:

"(a) [To provide an adequate and internationally accepted minimum standard for the poor] To arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation in least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in these countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained growth and development;

"(b) [To identify and support major investment opportunities and priorities] To support development policies and priorities of the least developed countries;

"(c) [To mitigate as far as possible the adverse effects of natural disasters] To promote viable diversification of the economic structures of the least developed countries;

"(d) [To promote viable diversification of the economic structures of the least developed countries, including the creation of viable industries for processing raw materials, the development of integrated projects for the expansion of production and export, and the provision of adequate resources for overcoming supply bottlenecks] To promote human development by supporting effective population, health, education, training and employment policies;

"(e) [To ensure that aid is fully supportive of the development objectives of the least developed countries and that aid effectiveness is enhanced, inter alia, through improved coordination and the strengthening of country review meetings] To ensure that aid is fully supportive of the development objectives of the least developed countries and that aid effectiveness is enhanced, and that appropriate measures are implemented to alleviate external indebtedness of the least developed countries;

"(f) [To encourage positive measures for facilitating the expansion of trade opportunities of the least developed countries, including the promotion of subregional trade through technical and economic cooperation and integration for development] To encourage positive measures for facilitating the expansion of trade opportunities of the least developed countries, including

the promotion of subregional trade through technical and economic cooperation and integration for development;

"(g) [To strengthen the capacities of the least developed countries to establish and implement their own policies and programmes, and to address the structural rigidities and deficiencies of their economies] To mitigate as far as possible the adverse effects of unforeseen developments as well as of man-made and natural disasters;

"(h) To strengthen the capacities of the least developed countries to establish and implement their own policies and programmes, and to address the structural rigidities and deficiencies of their economies."

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Paragraph 15.13 The paragraph should read as follows:

"As a follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990, concerted efforts will be made to promote, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the [decisions of the Second Conference] Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the eighth session of UNCTAD, the Trade and Development Board and other relevant intergovernmental forums. Those efforts will include:

"(a) [The identification and analysis of structural, institutional and policy constraints at the national and international levels impinging on the socio-economic development of the least developed countries] Analysing and comparing the experience and lessons learned from formulating and implementing the policy framework plans and the functioning of the country-level coordination arrangements;

"(b) [The formulation of proposals for national and international action for accelerating the socio-economic development of the least developed countries] Assessing, on a regular basis, the economic and social performance of the least developed countries, in the context of the international environment and domestic factors;

"(c) [Analysis, in cooperation with other international organizations, of international developments in aid flows, management and practices and the formulation of proposals to enhance the volume and quality of such flows in support of the development programmes of the least developed countries] Monitoring the implementation of the commitments and the measures contained in the Programme of Action;

"(d) [Provision of improved information flows to least developed countries] Reviewing the assistance of the development partners in responding to the special needs and circumstances of the least developed countries;

"(e) Formulating proposals for national and international action for accelerating the socio-economic development of the least developed countries;

"(f) Providing improved information flows to least developed countries."

Paragraph 15.14 Replace the third and fourth sentences with the following:

"The Least Developed Countries Annual Report and other reports containing up-to-date information and analysis on the least developed countries, including the basic data series, will be prepared and published on a regular basis with a view, inter alia, to promoting the systematic follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. Substantive inputs, as appropriate, will be made to the country review process and to the follow-up at the regional level, including the cluster meetings."

Paragraph 15.15 In the second sentence, after "improvement" add "and diversification".

Paragraph 15.16 The paragraph should read as follows:

"Support will be provided for technical cooperation activities, with emphasis on resource management; the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the least developed countries to design and implement appropriate macroeconomic and sectoral policies, as well as policies to promote and diversify trade and improve their capacity to benefit from existing preferential arrangements in their favour. In addition, as a follow-up to the Cartagena Commitment, the UNCTAD secretariat will:

"(a) Analyse the implications of changes in the list of the least developed countries by the General Assembly, for appropriate adjustments to the commitments contained in the Programme of Action in respect of targets and levels of official development assistance, as well as in respect of other relevant areas of international support;

"(b) Undertake analyses of measures necessitated by the developments affecting least developed countries that have occurred since the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (such as the Persian Gulf war, which has led to losses in export revenue and in receipts of remittance, costs for the absorption of returning workers and to temporary increases in import

costs; and the changes in countries in Eastern and Central Europe, which have led, in some cases, to losses of export markets, as well as of financial and technical assistance from those countries), focusing on the following areas of priority action: external debt, including multilateral debt, payment arrears and commercial debt; access to markets of products of least developed countries; and export diversification and compensatory financing."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Land-locked and island developing countries

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 15.17 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/202 and 46/212; and the Cartagena Commitment, paragraphs 162 and 222.

Paragraph 15.19 — Insert a new subparagraph (a) and renumber the other subparagraphs accordingly:

"(a) To promote implementation of specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of the land-locked developing countries".

Paragraph 15.20 — Insert a new subparagraph (a) and renumber the other subparagraphs accordingly:

"(a) To promote appropriate development policies to overcome the specific vulnerabilities of the island developing countries".